GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:543
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
BROAD BASED TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENT
Shanavas Shri M. I.;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is in the process of finalization of the Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)/Free Trade Agreement with the European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made therein so far;

(c) the details of the contentious issues still being negotiated and the efforts being made by the Government to resolve them; and

(d) the details of the economic benefits likely to be accrued to the small and medium business enterprises and exporters from the aforesaid Agreement?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU) and negotiations were launched in Brussels on 28-29 June, 2007 based on the recommendations of the High Level Trade Group at the 7th India-EU Summit in October, 2006 in Helsinki. Negotiations across a number of tracks including Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Government Procurement, Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation, Dispute Settlement, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights etc. are underway. So far fourteen rounds of negotiations have been held.

(c) As is consistent with previous and established practice in ongoing negotiations, it would be premature to share the details of negotiations including the contentious issues and efforts being made to resolve them on account of sensitivities involved. Disclosures before finalisation of the Agreement may adversely affect India's position in the negotiations.

(d) Enhanced bilateral trade in goods and services and investment flows would result from this BTIA, which will also benefit small and medium business enterprises and exporters.